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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/524,753	07/28/2005	Tomas Ussing	PL0UG42.001APC	6900
20995 7590 02/23/2009 KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP 2040 MAIN STREET FOURTEENTH FLOOR IRVINE, CA 92614				
EXAMINER BAYOU, AMENE SETEGNE				
ART UNIT 3746		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 02/23/2009		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/524,753

Applicant(s)

USSING, TOMAS

Examiner

AMENE S. BAYOU

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 140-171 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 140-171 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains the word "means". Correction is required. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

2. Claim 140 (and thus its dependent claims 141-157,159,164-169) are objected to because of the following informalities: In re claim 140 ,it recites "the means for moving" and we assume that the applicant rather intends to say "moving means" which is correctly recited in the same claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

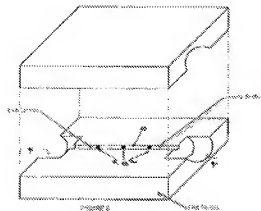
3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 140-148, 150-156 and 158-171 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prosperetti et al. U.S. 2001/0010799 A1 further in view of Shiraishi U.S. 6,071,081 and Suzuki U.S. 4,795,243.

5. In regards to claims 140, 156, 158, 160, 166, 169 and 170 Prosperetti et al. discloses a micro-pump system for generating a liquid flow in at least one micro channel (40) holding a liquid comprising: a substrate (see Fig. 6 labeled by the examiner for

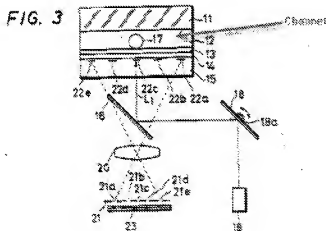
clarity) holding at least one micro channel (40) with at a first section having a first surface part and at least a second section having a second surface part (see Fig. 6 labeled by the examiner for clarity).



Prosperetti et al. differs from the claimed invention in that no detail is provided with respect to a light source adapted to emit a light beam and moving means for introducing a relative movement between the light beam and the substrate. Prosperetti et al. discloses heaters (46) as a means for producing a vapor bubble. However, Shiraishi teaches on analogous liquid transport device in which a light source adapted to emit a laser beam is used as a heat source in order to produce at least one vapor bubble (5) (see column 3, lines 35-40 and Fig. 2).

Shiraishi provides no explicit detail in regards to inducing a means for movement between the light/laser beam and the substrate. However, Suzuki teaches of an analogous apparatus having a light source (19), detailed as a laser, adapted to emit a light beam (L1) and a moving means (16, 18 and 18a) for inducing a relative movement between the light beam (L1) and a substrate (15). Suzuki teaches that the means for

moving being adapted to move between at least a first position in which the light beam will irradiate the first surface (22c) part and a second position in which the light beam will irradiate the second surface part (22c) whereby at least one vapor bubble (17) is formed acting on the liquid (12) in the first and second section of a channel (see Fig. 3 labeled by the examiner for clarity). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the disclosure according to Prosperetti et al. with the teaching of Shiraishi in order to obtain a micro pump in which an alternative means it utilized to form a vapor bubble by substituting the heater element (46) according to Prosperetti et al., with the light source as described by Shiraishi and further to incorporate a moving means (16, 18 and 18a) as taught by Suzuki to provide means for irradiating multiple section within a channel.



6. In regards to claims 141 and 161 Suzuki teaches that the light beam (L1) is continuously irradiating the channel when moving from a first position to a second

position creating travel of at least one vapor bubble (17) from a first section (22c) to a second section (22b) (see column 4, lines 40-51 and Fig. 3).

7. With respect to claim 142 and further in consideration to claims 158, 160, 162 and 170, Prosperetti et al. discloses a system in which at least a first vapor bubble is formed at a first surface (461) and that at least a second bubble is formed at a second surface (462) in response to the power supplied at heaters (46) and not due to irradiation of a light beam. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the disclosure according to Prosperetti et al. by substituting the heater(s) (46) with the irradiating light beam according to Shiraishi in order to obtain a micro pump in which an alternative means it utilized to form a vapor bubble.

8. In regards to 143, 154, 155, 158, 163 and further in consideration to claim 170, Prosperetti et al. discloses that at least a second vapor bubble is formed before the at least first vapor bubble is collapsed (see paragraph 50 and Fig. 5). Prosperetti et al. disclosed further that as a new bubble grows, the remaining bubble effectively blocks or restricts the channel. In particular regards to claim 154, by the disclosure according to Prosperetti et al. describing that a bubble effectively restricts the channel, it is understood that the formation of the vapor bubble would then include dimensions corresponding to the channel dimensions in which it is formed.

9. In regards to claim 144 and 165 Suzuki teaches at least one surface part of the channel comprises a light absorbing material (14) for absorption of energy. In regards to claim 145 and 146 Suzuki teaches a light beam control (18a). It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize these teaching according to Suzuki to modify the disclosure of Prosperetti et al in view of Shiraishi in order to obtain anticipated results.

10. With respect to claim 147 and 148 Prosperetti et al. further in view of Shiraishi and Suzuki discloses the claimed invention however does not explicitly provide detail in regards to the energy density of the light beam. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to select a light beam with a desired energy density, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

11. In further regards to Claim 147 and 148, Shiraishi teaches film boiling and the use of a light beam (Fig. 2) with a particular energy density in order to form a vapor bubble (5). It is understood that since film boiling takes place, the light beam has an energy density to heat at least a part of the liquid, surrounding the vapor bubble (5), to a temperature below the boiling point of the liquid (3) since no vapor bubbles are formed in this area.

12. In regards to claim 152 and 170 Suzuki teaches a means for moving the light beam (L1) in relation to the substrate (15) which includes a means (18a) for moving the light beam (L1).

13. In regards to claims 150, 151, 171 i further consideration to claim 170, Suzuki does not provide any specific detail with respect to the means for moving the light beam in relation to the substrate comprising a means for moving the substrate or by moving the

light source. However, with the teaching provided by Suzuki of moving the light beam (L1) in relation to the substrate, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to move the substrate or the light source as an alternative means for moving the light beam (L1) in relation to the substrate.

14. With respect to claim 153 and 168 Suzuki teaches of a focusing means (20) for focusing a light beam at a selected location. It is used in relation to light source (23), however it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize such a focusing means (20) with any light source/light beam, as taught by Shiraishi, for focusing at a selected location.

15. In regards to Claim 159 Prosperetti et al disclose that the micro fluidic system comprises a sub system selected from micro mixing means, a micro valve means, and a thermal reactor, in paragraph [0006]. Please note also that this limitation is merely an intended use or field of application of the micro fluidic system.

16. In regards to claim 164 Prosperetti et al. discloses a system which provides for a bi-directional flow (see paragraph 49 and Fig. 4).

17. With respect to claim 167 Prosperetti et al does not provide disclosure in regards to the particular method of "film boiling". However, Shiraishi explicitly teaches that a vapor bubble is formed via the method of film boiling at least a part of liquid (3) in response to light beam irradiation (see abstract and Fig. 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the method of film boiling liquid in order to form a vapor bubble.

18. Claim 149 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prosperetti et al. U.S. 2001/0010799 A1 in view of Shiraishi U.S. 6,071,081 and Suzuki U.S. 4,795,243 as applied to the claims on which 149 depends, and further in view of Wiedemann U.S. 4,159,427.

19. In consideration to claim 149, the disclosure of Prosperetti et al. in view of Shiraishi and Suzuki provide no explicit detail with regards to the presence of a thermopile element or infrared detector for determining liquid temperature. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select such an element/sensor/detector from a finite number of choices which would best suit the working environment in order to determine the temperature of the working fluid. The claim is obvious because a person has good reason to pursue the known options within his or her technical grasp. If such a selection leads to the anticipated success, it is likely the product not of innovation but of ordinary skill and common sense. Evidence showing an analogous arrangement can be seen in the teachings provided by Wiedemann who teaches the use of a thermopile element (78) or infrared detector/sensor in order to determine the temperature of a liquid (see column 15, lines 18-20).

20. Claim 157 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prosperetti et al. U.S. 2001/0010799 A1 in view of Shiraishi U.S. 6,071,081 and Suzuki U.S. 4,795,243 as applied to claim 140 above, and further in view of Schembri U.S. 6,189,659 B1.

21. With respect to claim 157, the disclosure of Prosperetti et al. in view of Shiraishi and Suzuki provide no explicit detail in regards to a first and second liquid wherein a vapor

bubble is formed in the first liquid increasing a boundary surface area between the first and second liquid. However Schembri teaches of an analogous apparatus for mixing a fluid, containing a plurality of components, retained within a chamber/channel so as to provide a film of fluid. The apparatus comprises of a means for forming vapor bubbles within the fluid film, whereby, as each bubble is formed, the fluid is displaced resulting in mixing of the fluid. It is understood that with the formation of a bubble the surface area of the liquid is ultimately increased (see column 2 line 36 - column 3 line 8). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to modify the invention as disclosed by Prosperetti et al. in view of Shiraishi and Suzuki with the teaching of Schembri in order to obtain a pump capable of mixing fluid within a channel by the formation of a vapor bubble via a light beam.

Response to Arguments

22. Applicant's arguments filed November 26 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

23. Applicant in page 11 paragraph 4, lines 8-11 argues that one skilled in the art would not look to Suzuki for micro pump variations. Examiner respectfully disagrees. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958

F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Suzuki through out the disclosure (such as column 1,lines 33-37) discuss the method of creating and moving micro sized bubbles (column 33,lines 13) .As mentioned in the teachings of Prosperetti et al. and Shiraishi and as one skilled in the art readily know, micro bubbles are used to pump fluids in micro fluidic applications. Thus it would be obvious to use the teachings of Suzuki to modify the pumping system of Prosperetti et al. and Shiraishi .

24. Applicant in page 11 paragraph 4,lines 8-11 further argues that in Suzuki, it is the stationary heating elements ,not the light source that are responsible for creating the bubbles. But as clearly discussed in rejection of claim 142 above it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the disclosure according to Prosperetti et al. by substituting the heater(s) (46) with the irradiating light beam disclosed according to Shiraishi in order to obtain a micro pump in which an alternative means it utilized to form a vapor bubble.

Conclusion

25. Accordingly , **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amene S. Bayou whose telephone number is 571-270-3214. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Devon Kramer can be reached on 571-272-7118. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Devon C Kramer/
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